

Message Text

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64

ACTION IO-10

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SUBJ: UN UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY FACULTY IN CARACAS

1. ACCORDING TO EL NACIONAL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY
SCHACHT

ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 22 THAT THE VENEZUELAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD
APPROVED A CONTRIBUTION OF BS. 43 MILLION (\$10 MILLION) TO THE NEW
UN UNIVERSITY, WHICH, ACCORDING TO SCHACHT, WILL ESTABLISH IN
VENEZUELA A FACULTY OF "EXPERIMENTAL TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES" IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE VENEZUELAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(IVIC). ACCORDING TO THE GOV ANNOUNCEMENT, HALF OF THIS AMOUNT
WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND THE OTHER HALF
LATER. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO NOTED THAT JAPAN HAD PUT UP THE
FIRST \$100 MILLION FOR THE UN UNIVERSITY AND THAT VENEZUELA'S
CONTRIBUTION WOULD NOT MEAN THAT THE GOV WOULD REDUCE ITS ONGOING
SUPPORT FOR OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN VENEZUELA DEALING WITH SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY.

2. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN AN INTERNAL DEBATE WITHIN THE GOV
FOR SEVERAL MONTHS OVER ESTABLISHING A TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
IN CARACAS. SOME OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR A PAN-AMERICAN
INSTITUTE, ALONG THE LINES OF MIT, WITH ACTIVE US SUPPORT AND
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PARTICIPATION. OTHERS FAVORED AN EXCLUSIVELY LATIN AMERICAN

INSTITUTE, DRAWING UPON FUNDS ALREADY PROVED BY THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO PROGRAM FOR SCHOLARSHIP AID TO OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THE REPORTED APRIL 22 VENEZUELAN CABINET DECISION MAY INDICATE THAT THE GOV HAS CHOSEN TO LOCATE WITHIN A UN FRAMEWORK SOME OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION.

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CARACAS OF A BRANCH OF THE UN UNIVERSITY. SUBSEQUENT TO THE APRIL 22 ANNOUNCEMENT, WE HAVE CHECKED WITH NUMEROUS SOURCES HERE, INCLUDING THE RESIDENT UN REPRESENTATIVE, TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS. HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE ALMOST UNIVERSAL IGNORANCE ABOUT THE SUBJECT. THUS FAR, WE HAVE ONLY DETERMINED THAT THE RECTOR OF THE UN UNIVERSITY VISITED HERE A FEW WEEKS AGO. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OR INFO ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE ON A PROSPECTIVE UN UNIVERSITY FACILITY IN CARACAS.
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